

## **The Development of Sri Lankan English Drama in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century and the Enlightenment**

Yan Weiwei  
Huanggang Normal University, China  
964162783@qq.com

Based on the review of the history of Sri Lankan drama, this paper introduced Sri Lankan language policy and the special status of English language in Sri Lankan society, and then examines the evolution of English drama in Sri Lanka. From “Westernization” of the upper class and mocking the lower class, Sri Lankan English drama came to the shaping of national images and presenting Sri Lankan culture. The development of English drama in Sri Lanka in the 20<sup>th</sup> century brings us the following enlightenment: language is the carrier of artistic creation and the medium of artistic communication, taking foreign language as the carrier of artistic creation, adopting the artistic means and expression from foreign countries can serve the development of national culture and art. Making use of “the other” to realize “self-construction” is an effective way to pass on the excellent local culture in the era of globalization.

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